



Issue # 53

The RCC Weekly

August 30, 2013

RCC Welcomes Dr. Roberson



Dr. Valerie Roberson became RCC's 15th president on July 22nd. She comes to us after having served for twenty-eight years as a community college administrator. As president of Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, Dr. Roberson was instrumental in increasing workforce development opportunities and student employment. She also worked to create academic programs that prepared students to meet and exceed industry requirements.

Dr. Roberson holds a bachelor of science in psychology, a master's degree in adult education, and a doctorate in higher education administration.

We extend a warm welcome to Dr. Roberson. RCC is happy to have her with us.

Mark Your Calendar

September 3: All College Convocation and Faculty Institute

September 4: Classes start

September 12: Developing Intercultural Communication Skills (1:30pm, 3-424)

September 21: Homecoming (10-5pm)

October 7: The State of Community Colleges in an Urban Setting (panel) - Dr. Thomas Bailey

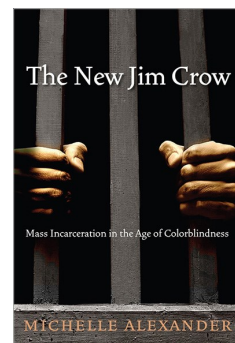
October 11: 40th Gala (7-11pm, Reggie)

October 22: Community Career Fair (12-4pm, 4-200)

One Book, One Campus

The selection for the 2013-2014 academic year is *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. In this book, Alexander traces the history of 19th century Jim Crow and links that segregationist system to the 21st century system of mass incarceration of people of color. The book debunks the myth that we live in a colorblind society and alerts us to the fact that we are witnessing, as Alexander puts it, "a human rights nightmare."

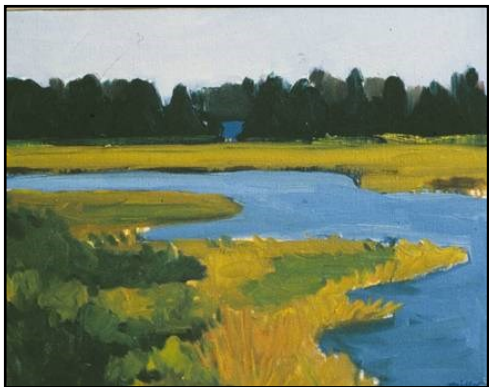
All College Experience classes will read the book this fall. We invite other disciplines, such as Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, English, and History to join in reading the book in the spring (or this fall, if you wish). Academic Affairs will have copies available for faculty who use the book. Students can purchase the book from our bookstore for \$25.



Original Art at RCC

Below are a few of the 26 pictures that are new this year. Most of the new ones are in the hallways of Academic Building, floors 3 and 4, Student Center, floors 1 and 3, and Administration, floors 2 and 3.

In 2005, the college had 7 pieces of original art on permanent display. Because of donations through The Art Connections and other sources, the college now has about 110 pieces in all five buildings. These are also displayed online at the library website, rcc.mass.edu/lib, click on Original Art at Roxbury Community College.



Hingham Marsh, (1988) by Leslie Miller. Oil, 16"x20".
Academic Building, 3rd floor



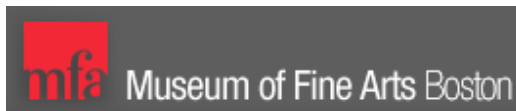
Orange Montage, (2009) by Mark Peterson. Photograph, 25"x35".
Academic Building, 3rd floor



Seeing Double, (2005) by Susan Collings. Photograph, 15"x18".
Academic Building, 4th floor

Gift of MFA Membership

A donor, who grew up in Roxbury, has given the College a gift of a one-year institutional membership to the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. That means that any of us with an RCC ID—students, faculty and staff—can visit the MFA free of charge.



Storyteller, (1990) by Laura Evans. Mixed Media on paper, 45"x32".
Student Center, 1st floor

Read the entire Art Connection article:

theartconnection.org/News-and-Events/Featured-Agencies/Roxbury-Community-College

RCC Students at the MIT Summer Research Program

Two RCC students took part in the MIT Summer Research Program (MSRP) this summer. Florice Luc and Venisa Dodi were involved in original field research on Boston election campaign issues, working with Ofer Lerner and Dr. Ceasar McDowell of MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. They conducted extensive field interviews in order to collect data on citizens' chief policy concerns and also citizens' awareness and engagement in these issues.



Florice Luc and Venisa Dodi with Prof Foote at the concluding Poster Session and Luncheon at MIT for the MIT Summer Research Program.

Florice focused on the issues of Housing and Immigration, and Venisa focused on Mental Health and Immigration: all issues that were identified by the interviewees as of key importance. As per Florice's abstract:

"One of the main problems with US democracy is that the public doesn't see it as their primary business. Although many organizations focus on public engagement, it's usually around issues that have already been defined....Most organizing efforts select and define a small group to represent a large variety of interests, demographics, and positions. New approaches are needed to help members of the public learn from one another, amplify their collective voice, and define the political agenda.....The data found provided leverage for the upcoming Mayoral candidates to pinpoint and address what the people's issues are."

The MSRP is a highly selective and prestigious summer residency

program at MIT, drawing undergraduates from all over the US, in which they live on campus at MIT and conduct original research with MIT professors, while being paid a generous stipend. The Program seeks to promote the value of graduate education; to improve the research enterprise through increased diversity; and to prepare and recruit the best and brightest for graduate education at MIT.

MSRP began in 1986 as an institutional effort to address the issue of underrepresentation of African Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, and Puerto Ricans in engineering and science in the United States. Today, this program seeks to identify talented sophomores, juniors, and non-graduating seniors who might benefit from spending a summer on MIT's campus, working in a research laboratory under the guidance of experienced scientists and engineers who are MIT faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, and advanced graduate students. Students who participate in this program will be better prepared and motivated to pursue advanced degrees, thereby helping to sustain a rich talent pool in critical areas of research and innovation. (<http://odge.mit.edu/undergraduate/msrp/>)

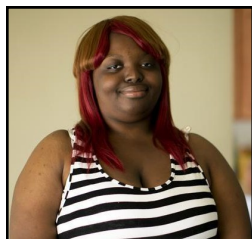
Our students' participation in this summer program is a highlight of the collaboration between RCC and the MIT/SPURS Humphrey program at the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, sponsored by the US State Department. The SPURS program brings mid-career professionals from developing countries to study Urban Planning at MIT. We have now completed our third year of this collaboration, spearheaded by RCC Dean Jose Alicea and MIT SPURS Director Bish Sanyal. This collaboration has created a close relationship between MIT DUSP and RCC, both institutionally and personally. It has been very enriching both to RCC students as well as to the Humphrey Fellows. Each year the program has steadily expanded in scope, and we trust that it will continue on this course.

Activities have included seminars at MIT and RCC, as well as guest lectures by Humphrey Fellows in Professor Latif's Economics classes and Professor Foote's Political Science classes. The Fellows have enjoyed these lectures quite as much as our students did. One goal of the Humphrey SPURS program is to offer exposure for the International Fellows to the US, and this collaboration expands their horizons well past Cambridge, which they greatly appreciate. (Click [here](#) for Dean Alicea's piece in the recent SPURS Journal)

This is an exciting collaboration both for MIT and RCC, offering wonderful opportunities for both students, Fellows and Faculty from both institutions.

Florice and Venisa had remarkable experiences this summer, both in doing their research with excellent MIT mentors, and -- perhaps even more important -- in making relationships that they will carry through their lives. Both of them said that it was an incredible challenge for them, but that it was also something

(Continued on page 4)



RCC Student in the Globe

On June 16th, the Sunday Boston Globe featured an article about Shabrinna McCalpine called, "From Struggling Young Mother to the Top of her Class." The article was about a young woman who had a child at 14 and had many difficulties but made it and now just finished High School at the top of her class and will start college in September.

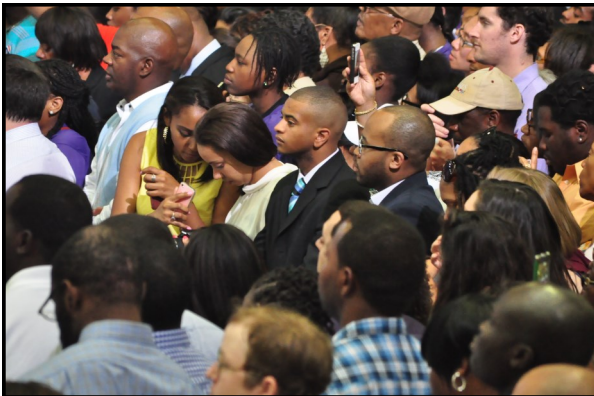
The article didn't mention that Shabrinna McCalpine already started college. Shabrinna was a dual enrollment student in an RCC Pre-Calculus class this spring. She was a good student and worked hard. Shabrinna benefited from RCC's Dual Enrollment program giving her an opportunity to take a free college course with free books.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article

President Obama's Visit to RCC



On June 15th, the President of the United States visited RCC to participate in a rally for Ed Markey.



(Continued from page 3)

that they had never imagined possible and that they will never forget. They did wonderful work on and learned a great deal. Florice hopes to continue with her project at MIT through the coming year.

Venisa will be at UMASS this Fall, and Florice will be back at RCC. We plan to have them present their research this Fall in an

Massachusetts Academic Polytech Pathway—Roxbury (RoxMAPP)

In June, Governor Deval Patrick and Mayor Tom Menino held a press conference at RCC to announce a new initiative between RCC and Madison Park Vocational and Technical High School.

Dr. Matthew Malone Secretary of Education will join us on September 3rd to bring us up to date on RoxMAPP.

RoxMAPP Fact Sheet: rcc.mass.edu/news/FactSheetRERoxMAPP62013.pdf

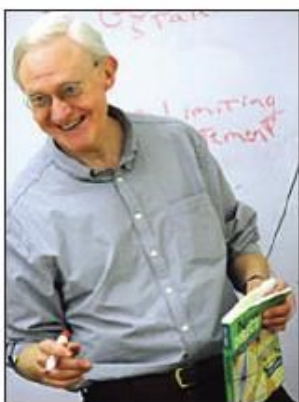


event at RCC, helping to recruit another cohort of RCC students into this program. We look forward to having even more RCC students get involved in the seminars, luncheons, lectures and other events that will begin again this Fall, as well as the possibility of future paid internships at MIT. This is only one example of the enriched programs that are offered at RCC for highly motivated students, for which we need to increase awareness at RCC and in the public at large.

Expert on Intercultural Communication to speak at RCC



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DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS WITH

Peter Gardner

AN EXPERT ON INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

BIOGRAPHY

Peter Gardner is a professor in the Liberal Arts Department at Berklee College of Music, where he teaches courses in intercultural communication, world literature, and film, and directs the English as a Second Language Program. He has lectured and held workshops for students and teachers in intercultural communication and English for speakers of other languages throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Professor Gardner is the author of *New Directions: Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking*, a popular textbook used in over 20 countries. His special areas of interest are cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication styles, as well as educational theory and practice.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

1:30 – 2:45 PM

Faculty Lounge, Academic Building (3), Room 424

Join us for a lively workshop on:

- Cultural differences in verbal communication styles
- Intercultural Education
- Culture Shock
- Cultural Adjustment



BSU Conference



On August 13-14, 2013, Bridgewater State University hosted a statewide conference, ***"Leading for Change: Diversity Practices in Higher Education."***

Pictured above are Paul Alexander and Veronica McCormack who attended the conference along with 220 staff and faculty from 49 state and private colleges and universities working for diversity and social justice.

Mentoring Grant

Mentoring for Success applied for and received the "Back to School" grant through Mass Mentoring Partnership. The grant will enable the program to continue raising awareness, and improve marketing and recruitment as the program expands to include mentors from nearby colleges. In addition, RCC is fortunate enough to be hosting a Highland Street AmeriCorps Ambassador of Mentoring for the 5th year in a row - current Ambassador Gregory Saint-Dick will be with the program for a second year!



Letter to the Editor



Professor Sterling Giles, Language Department, has had his letter to the editor of the Boston Globe printed in the August 19th issue. Here is the text of his letter as submitted:

August 13, 2013

To The Editor:

The state is working at cross purposes when it changes community college funding structures ("College funding tied to results," Aug. 12) without adjusting related policies in the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Linking funding to completed rather than attempted credits rewards success for schools whose students have the freedom to choose course loads which dovetail reasonably with work and family responsibilities, but some students are denied that choice.

Those students coming to school to work themselves off of transitional assistance – something the public would like to see happen – are eligible for day care, transportation, and other types of support, making it logistically possible to be in school, *only* if they enroll full time. Yet the best advice I can give an underprepared mother - returning to school after years away, juggling childcare, transportation, and a part-time job – is to begin part time, take a few classes, and do well in those few, building academic skills a step at a time. This individual cannot reasonably be expected to

immediately handle the same course load as an 18-year old without children living in a dormitory with cafeteria food, yet the only transition the DTA supports is full-time study. So students take too many courses, and fail some. If DTA would provide logistical support for part-time study, there would be gains in student success.

The shift from enrollment to success funding may improve success rates, or it may reduce educational opportunities for those schools with the least prepared, least affluent demographics. If we really want to support the success agenda, we need to put all the pieces in place.

Sterling Giles
Professor of ESOL
Roxbury Community College

(Sterling Giles has taught at Roxbury Community College for over twenty years.)

Note: In its printing, the Globe omitted Sterling's comments about the overall funding structure.

Bulletin Boards

This is a reminder that flyers and signs should **not** be placed on the walls of any of our buildings. Last year, we had bulletin boards installed on each floor of the Academic Building for posting such material. Flyers and signs placed on walls will be removed.

Items for "The Weekly"

If you have something of interest that you would like to share with the college community, please submit it to Jacqueline Lynch at jlynch1@rcc.mass.edu